

27 March

LET US SUFFER TOGETHER

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For donations:

HEFSIBA

Bank: ABSA Lynnwoodrif Pretoria

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Dear Friends,

I have suffered during the 4 hour service at Chimwala last Sunday. The reason? I already had Malaria then and was weak, feverish and just wanted the service to be over. The sermon, choirs, presentation of members and church council members and the baptism of children and adults, all became formalities.

My sermon was about: "Let us suffer with Christ this Easter. The bible reference was Revelation 12, the tale of the dragon and then Child and the woman and her descendants.

The focus was on vs 17: "Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus" The dragon is still busy and try to make life as difficult for us as possible and this takes various forms also something like Malaria.

Almost all of our lecturers had malaria recently. Rev Timoteo just recovered from a very serious malaria attack. Our prayer requests at our Sermon sessions are dominated by students or their families suffering from malaria

May you have a blessed Easter and may you be willing to declare, that you are willing to suffer with Christ.

PEOPLE THAT SUFFER WITH HIV/AIDS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF RAPE

Janet Guyer from the Presbyterian Church of America and consultant of NetACT visited us and together we worked on a curriculum for Theological schools in sub-Sahara Africa. She also visited our church, Igreja Reformada em Mocambique's work in the field of HIV/AIDS. Very impressive is ABY's activists and volunteer training that has already trained more than 60 000 people in our synod region since 2005. There is a very real danger that they must close due to funding problems, but the work continues.

She was impressed with Marie Smit's group with their holistic approach to the problem with the focus on the whole family and Christian values. Please pray for this very important work of the Church – a lot of people are reached with the Gospel in this way.

ECONOMICAL SUFFERING

Attie and Anel van der Walt have blessed us with their presence. Attie worked hard on the auditing of the Hefsiba and Synods' financial records and Anel with the updating of the HEFSIBA Website. Before the auditing started we realized with shock that one of our reliable staff members took money from our students. For us all it was a sad affair and the disciplinary is in progress. Attie made recommendations to ensure that controls are in place to limit similar incidents. We already handle very little cash. We live in a broken reality and our staff that works with "mammon" need our prayers. Attie found our financial records in order and was impressed with the standard of our Zimbabwean treasurer, Mr. Tarisai's knowledge of bookkeeping and PASTEL (accounting package).

At our last Financial Management meeting we noted that new donors are contributing to Hefsiba, we are thankful for this. Know that your money for Hefsiba is secure and still the best "Kingdom" investment that you can make! Thank you to all the "old donors" that are continuing with your contribution.

ACADEMIC SUFFERING

The first exams of the students are finished and for our new 1st year students this was a shock. Many failed certain subjects. The primary reason is the big jump from secondary school to a Tertiary institution, where some insight is required and not just a presentation of facts.

STAFF NEWS

1. Ds. Aaron Muswubi has returned from his visit to his beloved Venda land. His financial support remains a problem and the situation requires our prayers.
2. Ds. Manasse Matiquele, our Director, is on his way to Maputo to represent HEFSIBA at the honorary degree ceremony to the President's wife. He is also going to negotiate with a book shop for the purchase of Theological books for HEFSIBA.
3. Antoinette and I are going to Morgenster in Zimbabwe to the Murray Theological School and will be involved in the process of curriculum improvement. From there we are going to SA for my last 2 cancer treatments and the baptism of our latest grandson.

AFTER DEATH THERE IS LIFE – AFTER SUFFERING THERE IS VICTORY!

After the crucifixion and death, there was the resurrection on the Sunday! "Jesus live and we will live!"

May you celebrate and experience Easter!

HEFSIBA GREETINGS!

Kruger and Antoinette du Preez

CRISTO ACIMA DE TUDO! CHRISTUS BO ALLES!

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